## Last Word

## Writer of the year; publication schedule

Happy New Year to all Signal Corps professionals and those interested in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. My ongoing "mission" is to make *Army Communicator* the best professional magazine in the U.S. Army; I think the premier branch of the Army deserves no less.

To do this, I need your feedback and dialogue on how the magazine can better serve you, its readers. One goal is to better serve Signal Corps noncommissioned officers. Perhaps contrary to popular opinion, the *Army Communicator* is not a magazine solely for officers. NCOs' professional development has always been a high priority with me.

NCOs, I need your input about what articles you'd like to see, and I need more articles written by NCOs.

Another goal is more information and articles for Career Management Field CMF 25. CMF 25ers, I need input from you, too, about articles of interest to you, and of course I'd like to see more articles written by CMF 25ers.

For those of you who plan to write for the magazine in 1998, here are the manuscript deadlines:

- Spring 1998 manuscripts due no later than March 25:
- Summer 1998 manuscripts due no later than June 23;
- Fall 1998 manuscripts due no later than Sept. 18; and
- Winter 1999 manuscripts due no later Jan. 7, 1999.

For guidelines on how to submit manuscripts and other useful writer's information/tips, see the *Army Communicator*'s website.

Now for best news. In 1997 the magazine started a program to acknowledge its writers. An editorial board began to select a writer of the quarter for the first time and a writer of the year. I'm pleased to announce Debbie Linton as the *Army Communicator* 1997 writer of the year. Linton works in the Training and Doctrine Command systems manager office for satellite communications at Fort Gordon, Ga.

She has always been willing to share her expertise with her Signal Corps colleagues and puts together the SATCOM architecture book as well. Please join me in thanking her for a job well done.

Writers of the quarter for 1997 were judged against each other for writer of the year. Writers of the quarter were:

- MAJ Tom Budzyna of 1st Satellite Control Battalion, Colorado Springs, Colo., for the Winter 1997 edition;
- Dr. Carol Stokes, command historian for the Signal Center, Fort Gordon, for the Spring 1997 edition;
- Debbie Linton, Summer 1997 (Force XXI special edition); and
- SFC Jim Ward, Army Signal Command's public-affairs office, Fort Huachuca, Ariz., for Fall 1997.

Congratulations to all and keep up the good work. I for one really appreciate it, and appreciate all the writers who take the time to share their expertise and concerns with their Signal Corps colleagues.

May 1998 bring you the best.

Lisa Alley

Editor, Army Communicator